

TALON

Operation Joint Forge

Saturday, December 30, 2000

Happy New Year

Task Force Eagle

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3 ID (M) Band Performs During Holidays



Spreading Holiday Cheer with the 94th MP Co.
103 MI; The Eyes of TFE
Terrorist Exercise at Eagle Base

THE MESS YOU DIDN'T EXPECT

Ron Hutchcraft of Ron Hutchcraft Ministries tells the amusing story about his two year old grandson, Jordan. Jordan's mother left him alone in the living room for just a short period. That was long enough however for Jordan to find some trouble. What he found was a blue marker. Jordan managed to get the top off and proceeded to paint himself: arms, legs, face, etc. When his mother returned, there was Jordan, blue all over. She was aghast and took her young son into the bathroom and let him look at himself in the mirror. When Jordan saw himself, he put his hands on his face, shook his head, and kept saying, "Oh no! Oh no!" Jordan had made a mess he didn't expect.

Jordan was having a great time with that marker. He had no idea what he was doing to himself. It all seemed like so much fun – until he came face to face with what he had done! Well, I've been in that situation before, just like Jordan. Maybe you have too. Not with a marker, but maybe with some sin that we've gotten into. While we're doing it, it seems so cool, so great, so much fun. But in time, we come face to face with the mess that we've created and like Jordan, we say, "Oh no!"

In James 1:14-15, it says, "Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death."

Ron Hutchcraft says that sin first fascinates you and then it assassinates you! Maybe this last year has been one where you have given in to temptations or compromised in areas of your life that ended up making a mess. Maybe you've abandoned a commitment and now have you saying, "Oh no!" There is now a mess you didn't expect. Sin always takes you further than you wanted to go...it keeps you longer than you wanted to stay...and it costs you much more than you wanted to pay!

Why not decide to do it differently in 2001. At James 1:21-22, God's Word tells us to, "lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

This is the challenge for you and me for the coming year: To flee from evil and do good; to love our neighbors as ourselves; to honor our spouses; to be more concerned about the needs of others than our own needs, and to love the Lord with all our hearts, minds and souls. We have plenty of HOOAH around MND(N) – plenty of HOOAH back at home station. There is plenty HOOAH in the world. But what we need is less HOOAH and more DOOAH! That way we won't end up with a mess we didn't expect!

See me for the rest of the story...

Thoughts For The Day

Saturday: Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness lies in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.

Sunday: Your neighbor's windows look a great deal better when you wash your own.

Monday: Pray earnestly! You can't expect a \$1,000.00 answer from a \$0.10 prayer!

Tuesday: God's plans include you. Do your plans include God?

Wednesday: Serving the Lord is an investment that pays eternal dividends.

Thursday: The one who falls into sin is human; the one who grieves at sin is a saint; the one who boasts of sin is a fool.

Friday: What could be impossible for the God Who has created the universe and everything in it?

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Clarke L. McGriff
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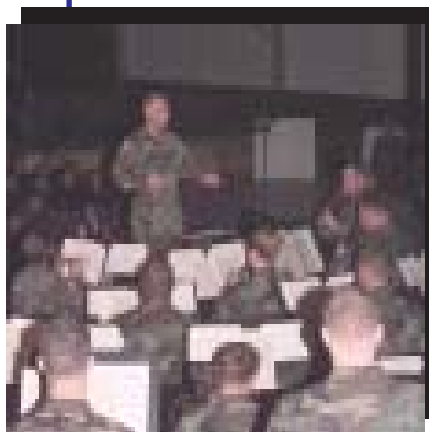
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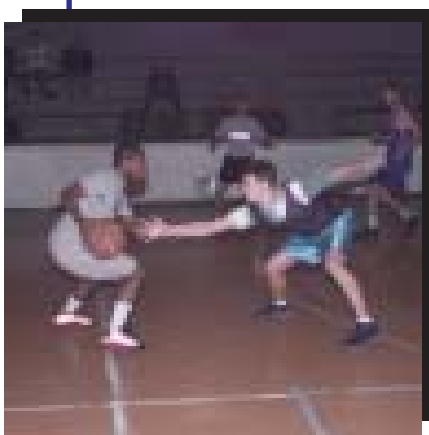
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During a holiday tour in the Balkans, the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) Band traveled throughout the region to spread holiday cheer to everyone. (Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.)



DOBOL BLACK KNIGHTS GO HEAD TO HEAD WITH TEAM FROM KALESIJA

6

Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1-64 AR traveled to Kalesija to compete with the hometown team in a friendly game of basketball. (Photo by Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney)



MP'S ARE SPREADING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

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Members of the 94th Military Police Company, led by Sgt. Scott F. Durst, go to an orphanage and give the children a Christmas they won't soon forget. (Photo by Spc. Marc F. Marin)

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS— SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

By Command Sgt. Maj. George J. Ruo Jr.

Command Sgt. Maj., Multinational Division (North)

Every year Americans engage in this self-promising phenomenon called New Year's resolutions. Often times, resolutions are made a few hours before midnight where someone may conjure up some seemingly important items that at the time they want to change during the New Year. The odd thing is that most of the time those same people have forgotten about their resolutions before the New Year's evening concludes or within the following weeks. What often lacks in succeeding in our New Year's resolutions is the resolve to make a thoughtful and determined attempt at improving ourselves. Don't let this happen to you.

As soldiers we live the credo of always seeking self-improvement in order to 'be all we can be.' In order to aspire to the highest levels, we must challenge ourselves everyday to become better soldiers, leaders, friends and family members. So on the eve of this joyous New Year, what better time to reflect on the past year and determine our self-improvement goals.

Develop interpersonal relationships. How we connect with family, friends, and fellow soldiers is one of the most essential aspects of maintaining a healthy and happy life style. None of us were created to live in isolation. Rather, the relationships we foster, develop and maintain can provide the greatest satisfaction during our lives. We must take a hard look at the type of attitude we maintain in relating to each other and how we treat our fellow soldiers. Just because you work in an office most of the day, doesn't mean that you cannot seek other relationships outside the work place and develop enriching interpersonal experiences that will last a lifetime. I know many senior leaders who have maintained relationships for 30 years by simply maintaining positive and consistent contact with mentors, peers and soldiers around the world.

Also, even though we are apart from family and friends during our deployment we must reach out to them and maintain positive and caring contact with those who miss us just as much as we miss them. There are many ways we can stay close with those back home. We have cyber cafes to send emails and video conference with friends and family, morale phone calls, and the age old 'snail mail' letter that says you took the time to sit down, compose and send your thoughts to another. Also, remember that communication from afar can yield messages that may be perceived in a different way than you intended them to mean. For instance, sending a 'butt-chewing' over the phone or email may not allow for the other person to respond or consider the manner



Command Sgt. Maj. George J. Ruo Jr.

by which you truly meant the message. Worse yet, phones and emails can't relay all the intricacies that communication can involve and can relay a distorted meaning to the recipient if you are not careful. Be understanding of the complexities of communication and choose your words wisely when using these communication systems. Always think before you write and speak.

Fix any 'dents in your armor.' This past year you may have found that you did not meet a personal expectation, or worse yet failed at a personal or professional undertaking. Many things can take us away from achieving a goal or failing at a task, but don't despair. The only time you truly can ever fail is when you stop trying!

Identify and create an action plan for your personal goal! Also identify a couple of personal goals that you would like to achieve for this upcoming New Year. Sometime when we list personal objectives, we either forget or become overwhelmed when considering the work required to achieve such a task. Identify a couple of essential self-improvement items and get to work on them right away. Pick a few important personal tasks and develop an action plan. For instance, if you are going to quit smoking, don't just say, "I am going to quit smoking and am going to try really hard." Rather, develop an action plan that focuses on the objective and identifies interim goals along the way. Such as: Step 1, take a smoking cessation class; Step 2, identify alternative replacement behaviors (chew gum, drink water, etc.); Step 3, increase physical activity, and so on. The manner by which you achieve your resolution is unique and should be tailored to you. Don't forget to set aside the time and energy to achieve your personal objective. There are many possibilities, but always remember it is **your goal**, that requires **commitment and hard work!**

With this New Year upon us, avoid the pitfalls of half-heartedly identifying a resolution without giving enough time and energy to it. I hope that you take these words to heart as you quietly reflect on what resolution you will make to build stronger interpersonal relationships, fix any flaws in your armor and all the while remain committed to self-improvement as we continue to build a safe and secure environment for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.



A ROWDY CROWD—An unruly demonstrator is taken into custody by military police during a noisy demonstration at the pedestrian gate during the terrorism training exercise. (top) Soldiers from TFME loaded casualties onto Blackhawk helicopters, simulating a medical evacuation situation. (middle) A hose team, led by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Anslinger, Spc. John Darnel and Spc. Randy Wethington, both from 4-64 AR, stand by ready to go into action if the "demonstrator situation" worsens during the terrorism training exercise. Spraying the demonstrators would be a last resort. (bottom)

TERRORIST EXERCISE AT EAGLE BASE

Story and photos

By Sgt. David Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

It's 10:00 a.m. A television crew from Combat News Network shows up at the Pedestrian gate to interview security personnel about a change in the current threat condition.

The news crew is more aggressive than they should be and overstep the ground rules laid out by military police. The military police have no choice but to detain the broadcast team for violating base security.

Sgt. Anthony Bly, 94th Military Police Company and his military working dog, Alan, take a position to keep an eye on the media team. Sgt. Bly asks the reporter to be careful around Alan.

"He doesn't know the difference between role play and real life," Sgt. Bly says.

This was part of a force protection exercise conducted at Eagle Base, Dec. 21.

There were three scenarios: an explosion, a mass casualty evacuation and a civil disturbance at the gate. The Eagle Base Fire department, Brown and Root security personnel and the Air Force were involved in the exercise that included all Army units on the installation.

"This exercise gave us an opportunity to develop better communication and maneuver systems in the event of an emergency," said Capt. Jeff Powell, Base Defense Operations Cell (BDOC) Chief of Operations.

Meanwhile, the 'Combat News Network' correspondent, played by Sgt. Steve

Cegielski, Coalition Press Information Center, and his video crew were detained.

Their videotape, identification cards and driver's licenses are checked by military police. They are interviewed. Nearly an hour later the team's personal items and videotape are returned.

Sgt. Cegielski was pleased with the way the MP's reacted to the media and handled the situation.

"These teams are very assertive and well-trained. We portrayed a news crew that got a little too aggressive, and when we did the guards took control of the situation," Sgt. Cegielski said.

Next, the camera team walked to the BDOC for an interview with Capt. Powell.

"We are prepared for anything. Every unit is prepared to provide for the mission if needed," said Capt. Powell. He says the BDOC received a call from an unidentified source. They know which group placed the call but would not give that information to the reporter.

"We are raising our level of vigilance," said Capt. Powell. "What happened to the USS Cole proves you have to be ready!"

At Bravo Ramp, a simulated terrorist blast has produced eight casualties and one fatality.

The U.S. soldiers are taken to Task Force Med Eagle Hospital by ground ambulance and Danish Sisu for treatment of injuries ranging from burns and sucking chest wounds to fractures and minor cuts.

Life threatening injuries are categorized according with an ABC approach.

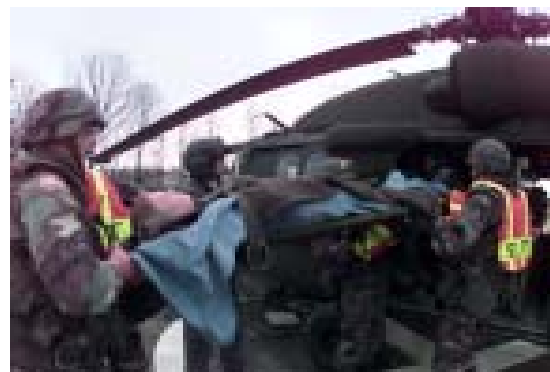
"We determine if there is an injury to the patient's airway (A) or breathing (B). Those could be immediately fatal if not recognized and treated. (C) stands for circulation. Does the patient need a pressure dressing applied to an actively bleeding wound? We then determine if there are other injuries that are not necessarily life threatening," explained Maj. Paul Bonucci, TF Med Eagle.

Patients with serious medical problems would be air evacuated

by C-9 or C-130 aircraft to Landstuhl, Germany. TFME is also prepared to treat casualties if they cannot be airlifted out.

"We run drills quite frequently to prepare for this type of incident. The training is focused or based on the environment we might wind up in," explained Capt. Terrie Pittman, TFME.

"I think this is excellent training. It really helps us train our doctors, nurses and



medics and stresses the evacuation system as well," said Lt. Col. Mark Ziemba, Deputy Commander, Clinical Services, TFME.

The training continued as a staff announcement was made in the hospital emergency room about a demonstration underway at the pedestrian gate.

In the cold, demonstrators held signs saying, "SFOR go home!" One demonstrator, Sasha, demanded to speak to the General. "The general promised he would pay money for my people," she explained.

As a helicopter circled overhead, a line of military police stood at the gate. Suddenly, a protestor tried to crawl under the fence and was quickly repelled by the MPs. One demonstrator is arrested by the MPs.

"The exercise was a huge success. It enables us to integrate every unit on base in the force protection plan. It gave us a good snapshot of what we need to do to fine tune our force protection plan," said Capt. Powell.





THE CAMP DOBOL BASKETBALL TEAM—All members of B Company 1-64 AR, the Black Knights are, from left to right: Back row -- Spc. Timothy Hicks, Sgt. Brian Reed, 2nd Lt. Cary Adams, Sgt. 1st Class Elvis Mack. Front row -- Spc. Carlos Jones, Spc. Vonryan Hunter and Spc. Robert Forbes. This was the first SFOR 8 team to play the local Kalesija team.

AMERICA'S FORTER WINS BASKETBAL AGAINST LOCAL

Story and photos

By Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney

Eagle Base, Camp Dobol

It wasn't a pretty sight. No waxed, shiny floors, no cameras taking video footage from above the rim, no seats. Not even a ticket scalper.

In a locker room smelling of paint chipped, spectators waited 40 minutes of tension easing exercise that, although not brought forth yet more peaceful relations with the local team.

The Camp Dobol Black Knights Basketball Team, 64th Armor Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, won a basketball game between the Kalesija team and the Americans.

According to 2nd Lt. Cary Adams, Bravo Company is equivalent to an American AAA team, meaning they have played SFOR teams before, but never had a chance to win.

The Dobol team, the Black Knights, got to the game in the parking lot watching the local team arrive, the nervous laughter. Some of the Kalesijans were over the top.

The Knights may have been nervous, but they were tall. In height, they more than made up for in style.

The first quarter started out with a lot of steals and fouling, but not a lot of scoring. The first quarter ended with a tie.

The second quarter started with the Knights winning a long three point shot from the side. Spc. Timothy Hicks, Black Knights ahead.

Near the end of the half, Spc. Carlos Jones, middle player on the Kalesija team, used that height difference low and poked the ball away from his dribbling on the court, passing it to Spc. Vonryan Hunter, for the Knights went into the half leading 48-31.

The Knights lost steam and allowed the Kalesijans to score as much as eight points. Some strategic substituting to cool down. Sgt. Brian Reed and 2nd Lt. Adams, something the Knights had trouble with in the first quarter hammering away at the Kalesija offense by constantly.

The height of the Kalesija players started to take a toll on the team starting taking time outs and injury breaks to look for ideas to use their height to their advantage.

The Knights brought the score back up within the half. The Kalesijans started a rally. The rally was ended a tie left when Sgt. 1st Class Elvis Mack stole the ball and ran down the court and in a desperate move by Mack scored both free-throws as the third quarter ended.

The fourth quarter had the Knights showing off. The showing off led to more fouls however, which was a close. The Knights prevailed, and the game ended with a win.

Mustafa Radisevic, a forward on the Kalesija team, a powerful team.

"It is a real challenge for us to play Americans," Mustafa said. "It doesn't matter how short they are, they can play."

1st Sgt. Rafael Rodriguez, B Company, 1-64 AR, won the Kalesija team.

"Basketball is our game," 1st Sgt. Rodriguez said. "Playing them at soccer is like playing Canada."



RATS—Spc. Timothy Hicks, B Company, 1-64 AR, has what started to be an easy shot (left), blocked by Kalesija for a turnover in the fourth quarter. (below) Spc. Carlos Jones, B Company, 1-64 AR, dances around his defender. Although his defender was more than a head taller, Spc. Jones easily out-jumped the members of the Kalesija team.

GAINING UP—Spc. Vonryan Hunter is triple teamed as he goes for two points in the fourth quarter (below). Spc. Hunter missed one of the resulting free throws, but made up for it with several steals throughout the game.



THE CAMP DOBOL L GAME TEAM

ors with team logos painted in red. No
net. No hot dog vendors walking through

or unfriendly gym, 18 men got together for
ot exactly found on their mission statement,
ocal citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

, seven members from Bravo Company, 1st
ision (Mechanized) here, played the first
merican SFOR 8 troops Dec. 8 in Kalesija.
pany, 1-64 AR, the Kalesija team is the
he level below professional. He said they
to play anyone from SFOR 8.

ym early that Friday night. As they stood
they noted how tall the players were with
six feet tall.

were not intimidated. What they lacked in

ing going on. The Kalesijians did all the
ded with the Knights ahead by two points.
med up and on fire. Spc. Robert Forbes hit
Hicks capitalized on foul shots to pull the

ore than a head shorter than most of the
ence much to his advantage by reaching in
pponent. He went down the length of the
easy layup. He missed it, but the Black

team to take an early third quarter lead by
g gave the Knights a breather and chance
paired up and started grabbing rebounds;
st half. Spc. Jones and Spc. Hunter kept
itly knocking the ball away.

a negative toll on the team overall. Kalesija
gather their thoughts and look in the play
ge.

he closing minutes of the third quarter, but
abruptly though with less than one minute
s they were going to shoot a three-pointer.
the opponent was fouled. Sgt. 1st Class
ended.

their stuff with more steals and rebounds.
ollowed the Kalesija team to stay relatively
with the Knights on top 93-80.

team, said he could tell the Army had a

U.S. is the best in basketball,” Radisevic
n jump and that makes it hard.”

knew the Army had a good chance to beat

aid. “We couldn’t beat them at their own
ans at ice hockey.”



KEEP AWAY—Spc. Vonryan Hunter, B Company, 1-64 AR, keeps the ball out of the reach of his opponent.



BLOCKED—Spc. Timothy Hicks, B Company, 1-64 AR, loses the high jump and the ball to a taller Kalesija player. Kalesija recovered the rebound, but was unable to make good on the turnover.

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Members of the 94th MP Company, with the help of family and friends at home, pass out presents among orphans in the city of Peace

Story and photos

By Spc. Marc F. Marin

318th PCH, Eagle Base

If the holiday season is indeed about giving, then the soldiers of the 94th Military Police Company should be feeling pretty good about themselves.

Sgt. Scott F. Durst, a driver for the 94th Military Police Company's Political Advisor Protective Service Detachment, and the three other members of the detachment; Sgt. Andrew St. Peter, Sgt. Randall Keaten, and Spc. Bryan Chabot, delivered gifts for the 112 children at the Rudolph Walter Foundation Orphanage, in the city of Peace Dec. 22.

A special agent with Maine Drug Enforcement when he's not in uniform, Sgt. Durst said the children should thank his wife Nancy, a teacher at Scarborough, Maine, High School, for the success of the operation.

"I told my wife about it and she basically took the ball and ran with it," Sgt. Durst said. "She arranged for different families back home to individually sponsor the kids."

But Sgt. Durst's helping of the needy isn't just limited to Peace.

"Each winter, my wife and I sponsor a needy family in the Portland, Maine, area and buy the kids gifts and provide a

Christmas dinner," Sgt. Durst said.

A large part of the children at Peace were victims of the Srebrenica Massacre of July 1995, Sgt. Durst said. He also said that while the majority of the kids are Muslim, the orphanage takes in children of all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

"It's a great place for the kids," Sgt. Durst said. "The facilities are brand new and the staff treats the kids right."

When the detachment arrived at the orphanage on Dec. 22, they were treated to a show by the kids.

After that, it was time for what everybody involved had been waiting for. The soldiers individually called out each child's name and personally handed out the well-traveled gifts.

According to Sgt. Durst, the experience was the highlight thus far of his deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We're here to help these people, and by helping these kids we're doing that," Sgt. Durst said. "For me, this has been the real mission as far as I'm looking at it."

"This will probably be my biggest accomplishment while I'm over here," Sgt. Durst continued. "It's made coming here all the more worthwhile."

The shipment of 62 boxes that the detachment took to Peace also contained clothing and school supplies, as Sgt. Durst



SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN—Just like in the song, Sgt. Durst made a list and is checking it twice. The list contained over 110 names of children who live in the orphanage.

and wife Nancy wanted to make sure they covered all the bases.

"They'll probably have a lot left over, but we were hoping that would happen," Sgt. Durst said. "That way, other kids in the neighborhood can benefit."

With the success of the operation and all the positives that came with it, Sgt. Durst told the kids that he and wife Nancy hoped to come back and visit in the next couple of years.

"We're very serious about it," Sgt. Durst said. "If at all possible, we'll come back in a couple years. I already talked to her about it, and she really wants to meet the kids."

"We're also looking into possibly becoming a foster parent for one of the kids. We're very interested in doing something like that."

PLAYING SANTA— Sgt. Scott F. Durst and the other soldiers from the 94th MP Company pass out presents to the children at the orphanage.



Saturday, December 30, 2000

'HEAVY' MACHINERY PROVIDES TASK FORCE EAGLE WITH SUPPLIES

Story and photos

By Spc. Jodie Moore

318th PCH, Camp McGovern

How does the Task Force here stay supplied with the fuel required for their daily patrols? Who supplies the ammo needed for the firing range? How is heavy equipment such as sandbags hauled? These are some of the questions that the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) Support Platoon can answer with ease.

The Support Platoon here has 14 soldiers. They work to ensure the Task Force is supplied with everything they need on a daily basis.

"The primary purpose of the Support Platoon is to provide the 3-15 Infantry Task Force with ammo, fuel and logistic packaging," said Sgt. Timothy Dixon, HHC 3-15 IN.

The Support Platoon consists of two sections: Cargo and POL (Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants). The support platoon accomplishes their missions with the help of the M977 and the M978, or HEMTT's (Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks).

The M977 is used for Class IX and Class IV (expendable material and ammunition) supplies. The M977 is also used in the cargo section. The M978 is used for bulk packaging, like diesel fuel.

Due to the small number of soldiers that make up the platoon, they must be proficient in both sections, and both types of trucks. The Support Platoon meets their daily demands by working together.

"Here we are so limited that we work together. The whole platoon is pretty much working as one section right now," said Pfc. Herbert L. Denton, HHC 3-15 IN.

The Support Platoon stays pretty busy here keeping the base camp vehicles supplied with fuel. The M978 HEMTT is the primary means of accomplishing this, allowing transportation and disbursement of fuel from one platform.

"We probably average about 14,500 gallons in a month," said Pfc. Denton.

To meet this demand, the Support Platoon relies on the M978 to haul fuel here. Each M978 HEMTT holds 2,500 gallons of fuel. However, only twenty three hundred gallons are put into the M978.

"We leave 200 gallons of room for expansion," said Pfc. Denton.

The Support Platoon takes a sample of the fuel to Eagle Base for inspection about once a week, to prevent contamination of the hundreds of engines the fuel goes into. Once the fuel passes inspection it is ready to go into the vehicles here.

The Cargo section of the

SAFETY FIRST—Sgt. Timothy Dixon, HHC 3-15 ID (M), does a safety check on the M977. "Safety first," said Sgt. Dixon.

Support Platoon is essential also, said Pfc. Denton.

"If the Task Force needs anything in a big quantity, our trucks are the only ones big enough to handle it," said Pfc. Denton.

"We average about three to four mission a week. Whatever the Task Force needs," said Staff Sgt. Stanley W. McCauley, HHC 3-15 IN.

This makes maintaining HEMTT's in working order critical. Maintenance on the HEMTT's in the Balkans environment is essential to accomplishing the Support Platoon's mission. According to Sgt. Dixon, the operators and the maintenance bay must work hand in hand.

Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services are done on all vehicles prior to dispatch. The vehicles also receive a daily maintenance and safety check so that they are ready for all missions, in all climate conditions. This is a time consuming procedure.

"We come down two hours prior to any mission so we can stay on schedule," said Staff Sgt. McCauley.

The HEMTT's must stay prepared for missions at all times. Support Platoons log hundreds of miles, and this makes safety and maintenance number one priorities.

"We take safety very serious here in the Support Platoon," said Sgt. Dixon.

How important is the Support Platoon? Well according to PFC Denton missions couldn't take place without the platoon.

"I feel without Support Platoon, this mission, any mission couldn't happen because we're mechanized. It's kind of demanding at times," Pfc. Denton said.

The soldiers of the Support Platoon agree that their mission isn't an easy one. However, they feel an obligation to the Task Force.

"I refer to our platoon as the backbone of the 3-15 Task Force," said Sgt. Dixon.

Although many soldiers here don't know about the Support Platoon, they still consider themselves important.

"We are silent but essential. You call we haul. Safety first," said Sgt. Dixon.



103RD MILITARY INTELLIGENCE; THE EYES OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

Story and photos

By Spc. Christopher Carney
318th PCH, Eagle Base

In order for an operation as big as Operation Joint Forge to be successful, many factors must come together. One of the most important of these factors is information.

If information about the surrounding area were not available it would be practically

shut.

Luckily, the members of the 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), are here to provide the vital asset of information.

"Here the mission is primarily a human collection mission where we're out there talking to the people which is different from our wartime mission which is primarily a

Signal Intelligence mission," said Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hrusovsky, 103rd MI Battalion Command Sergeant Major.

Because the 103rd MI is primarily a SIGINT unit, some of the soldiers are augmentees from other active

duty units as well as the National Guard and the Army Reserves. The 103rd MI includes soldiers both here and at Fort Stewart. The assembled team here is referred to as Task Force Dagger and includes soldiers from 519th MI BN,

313th MI BN, 323 MI BN, plus other Active, Guard and Reserve units.

"There are two main functions, one being the ACE [Analysis and Control Element] and the other being the rest of the Battalion," said Command Sgt. Maj. Hrusovsky.

"The ACE, Headquarters Company's biggest element, provides analyzed all-source intelligence for the Commanding General. The intelligence that they fuse and analyze comes from outfits within the unit and also from other outfits throughout Multinational Division (North) and the national intelligence agencies," said Command Sgt. Maj. Hrusovsky.

The remaining assets in the battalion consist of are called Tactical HUMINT Teams and ground surveillance personnel.

"The THT's are in a way similar to presence patrols, they are out there in the cities on a daily basis. Our guys have a more focused mission though, talking to the local population to find out what's going on," said Command Sgt. Maj. Hrusovsky.

Many of the soldiers are benefiting from their deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina by being able to

use the skills they were taught in a field environment.

"We don't have training opportunities like this at Fort Stewart, we are learning a lot by actually doing the job. We are always learning. One thing we have are strong noncommissioned officers, many have been in Bosnia before. I have learned more from my section leader than anyone at my school," said Spc. Blalock.

Staff Sgt. William Hines, operations NCO, also thinks the experience of deployment is good for the soldiers.

"The soldiers are performing their job excellently. For some this is their first deployment, a couple are right out of AIT [Advanced Individual Training]. The majority are over here for a year which can be hard on them, especially during the holiday season. But they can go out for 10 to 12 hours all day on the road then come back and work for another two to four hours on briefings. They have a lot on their shoulders and they are performing well," said Staff Sgt. Hines.

A task such as intelligence is mission vital and the officers, NCOs and soldiers of the 103rd MI Battalion work together to see that the job is completed.



MAIL CALL—Sgt. Rachel Dougherty, a Personnel NCO in the 103rd MI, sorts the holiday mail for distribution to 103rd MI

impossible to plan any mission, complete any mission or to find out the effects of a mission.

The safety of all operations would be in jeopardy if nothing was known about the surroundings. It would be like walking around with your eyes

INTERACTION—(right) Sgt. Stephanie Caulley, Spc. Jason Simpson, Pfc. Xochitl Gonzalez, and Spc. Robin Sybolt (left to right) with students at Pazar Primary School. While (below) Staff Sgt. David Sultan, 1st Lt. Tim Randle, Capt. Kyle McCreary, Capt. Andrew Duck, Capt. Jeanne Kenady (left to right) plan a staff ride on the fall of Srebrenica.



A TURKISH NCO'S VIEW OF SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY...A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

By Mehmet Simsek

Turkish Battalion Ordnance NCO Master Sgt.

I graduated as an ordnance NCO in 1975. I was assigned to various missions of Turkish Armed Forces (TUAF) as an NCO of a technical branch. Loyal to my military oath, I have always tried hard to outperform in the tasks assigned to me inconsiderate of time and energy. Thus, I have always been admired by my superiors.

I have always determined to actively play a role in transferring my experiences and professional knowledge, which I drew from my superiors, down to my soldiers with the aim of promoting their professional capacity. I have always been willing to keep up with technological advances and update my skills in conjunction with mission demands and have likewise persuaded my colleagues to adopt the same conduct.

Drawing to conclude my military professional life, I was selected for Turkish Battalion Task Force. The pride I feel for this assignment is beyond expression. Accepting this as a duty-shift, I have come

to the awareness that I must perform well-worthy of this honor granted to me.

NCOs, as the corner-stones of TUAF, are a irreplaceable element of the military society. Standards are only limits which urge us to aim high in our mission!

Military discipline is a life-style in TUAF. I believe that discipline becomes more vital in such an off-border theater. I have fulfilled my responsibilities cognizant of the significance of the tasks allocated to me. Hence, it must be our duty to reflect the same principles to conscripts. While maintaining a safe and secure environment for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we also owe much to colleagues and ranked personnel to create such a disciplined atmosphere.

In the core of all must stand the training! We must make most of all situations during daily routine and also make our time for sports and recreational activities.

Concluding my words, I wish to extend success and health to my colleagues in SFOR.

CHRISTMAS FASHION SHOW AT EAGLE BASE

Story by Danny C. Martin Jr.

Photos by Spc. Christopher Carney

318th PCH, Eagle Base

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, in conjunction with Morale, Welfare and Recreation, brought Eagle Base a taste of fashion this holiday season with the help of their runway models, some citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Along with the fashion show, AAFES and MWR have

brought many exciting events to Eagle and the rest of Multinational Division (North), including first-run movies, concerts, different theme nights at recreation centers, comedic performances, the Christmas parties and the upcoming New Year's Eve party.



GETTING INTO THE ACT—Even the little ones get involved (above).



BREAK—Benjamin Price and Indira Alijic get calling card info at fashion show (above).



CATWALK—Models make their way down the runway sporting multiple styles (left and right).





GOAL ORIENTED NCO SETS STANDARD AT MCGOVERN

Story and photos

By Spc. Jodie Moore

318th PCH, Camp McGovern

Being the best one can be isn't just another Army motto to Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Rhodan, Charlie Company 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized). It's a goal he strives for virtually everyday. On any given day you can find Staff Sgt. Rhodan in one of four places. He is either on presence patrol, conducting readiness training, on guard duty at the civilian gate, or at the Camp McGovern Gym.

Since deploying to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Staff Sgt. Rhodan has become an advocate for physical fitness. Never one to shy away from physical training (PT), this deployment has added a new dimension of fitness for him.

Staff Sgt. Rhodan spends one to two hours in the gym. It's a commitment he made to himself before coming here.

"My main goal when I came over here was to lose weight and gain muscle mass," said Staff Sgt. Rhodan.

To accomplish this task, Staff Sgt. Rhodan has become a regular at the gym, here.

"I workout six times a week, one muscle per day," said Staff Sgt. Rhodan. Monday through Saturday Staff Sgt. Rhodan can be found at the gym here.

Finding time to workout with all duties required of him, an infantry noncommissioned officer, takes a strong commitment on his part. Staff Sgt. Rhodan must fit his workouts between company missions.

Fitting in workouts around ones schedule isn't hard when one is as committed to staying in shape as Staff Sgt. Rhodan is. For him, staying in shape is something that comes naturally. He likes being in top physical condition.

"I strive for physical fitness. I always try and maintain at least a 290 on the PT test," he said.

Staff Sgt. Rhodan believes there are three phases of fitness conditioning: preparatory, conditioning and maintenance. He said that he tries to stay in the conditioning phase.

"The conditioning phase is the phase that you strive to reach your highest level of fitness," he said.

Staff Sgt. Rhodan will acknowledge his routine isn't easy, but he adds it's a responsibility of all soldiers to stay in shape.

"Physical fitness is truly an individual responsibility. In the military, it is important to maintain proper weight, body composition, and appearance," he said.

"Everyone should try to exercise at least three times a week. Gradually increase to improve your level of fitness. Set goals to achieve, and be sure to include cardiovascular exercise in your workout," said Staff Sgt. Rhodan.

Besides a tough workout regime, Staff Sgt. Rhodan also enjoys representing his Company on the gridiron. Most Sunday's Staff Sgt. Rhodan, a tight end, plays football here. His team, Charlie Company, made the playoffs. Staff Sgt. Rhodan said he is looking

forward to taking on the teams at Eagle Base in the playoffs.

Staff Sgt. Rhodan views his workouts as not only for his physical being, but also as a chance for him to get away from the daily stress he can face on his job.

"Soldiers need a 'go to' place to help them be the best they can be. That place is the gym," said Staff Sgt. Rhodan.

Much to his surprise, in his first overseas deployment, Staff Sgt. Rhodan says he is enjoying his time away from Fort Stewart. Staff Sgt. Rhodan says he is enjoying all aspects of this deployment. He said his interactions with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina have been positive.

At work at the OP6 (observation point) gate, Staff Sgt. Rhodan enjoys greeting the base camp workers.

"We get to know the different people that come to the gate," Staff Sgt. Rhodan said.

Staff Sgt. Rhodan says patrols in the Brcko area provides him with the opportunity to interact with a lot of children.

"I love kids. The kids (here) are real friendly. It's kind of sad to see them in the situation they are in. When I see the kids here I think about my son at home," Staff Sgt. Rhodan said.

Also a father, Staff Sgt. Rhodan makes a point to talk with his wife and child on the phone. He adds that working out is his favorite pastime after talking with his family.

Until the time when he is reunited with his family back at Fort Stewart, Staff Sgt. Rhodan will continue building muscle and building fond memories of his time here in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

GOALS—Reaching up for the weights is Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Rhodan, Charlie Company 3-15 IN. Staff Sgt. Rhodan fits in his workouts between patrols.

